W. SENECA ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 28, 2014 at 7:00 PM
BNAC – 2001 Union Rd., West Seneca
Prepared by Lauren Masset

I. CALL TO ORDER @ 7:00pm

II. ATTENDANCE

Members: Evelyn Hicks (EH), Chair, Rick Rutkowski (RR), Vice-Chair, Joyce Mallette (JM), Karl Spencer (KS), Jim Caruso (JC), George Rockey (GR), Steve Kondrak (SK), Jack Oshei (JO)
Associate Members: Lauren Masset (LM),
West Seneca Town Board : Councilman William Hanley (WH)
Excused: Dave Monolopolus (DM)
Guests: Anna Knold, Mike Wass, Jason Keklak, Jodi Keklak, Steven DiIoia

III. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

1. Meeting Minutes – August 2014, September 2014. *Tabled*
2. Financial/Treasurer's Report

JM reports spending at X-Press (Rain barrel signs) for $45.68, Trophy Trophy's (T-Shirts) for $156.60 and commercial card services (Tools @ Home Depot) for $1,575. The expense for tools will be carried over from December 2013.

3. 2014 Budget Purchases (suggestions)

RR suggests taxidermy animals, storm drain medallion, rain barrel supplies, and printing supplies. GR mentions he has talked to S&S about possible donations he will have a price quote for purchase at the next meeting.

4. Correspondence

EH received a large package from the town engineering office regarding a proposed plan for 1775 Union Rd. The plan includes a business looking to use the property for construction equipment rental. No changes to the property structures are to be made or added.

5. Office

EH reports the office has been moved into a larger space in the same building. A shelf and/or storage cabinet is needed.

IV. WSEC MEMBER PROJECTS - UPDATES/DISCUSSION

1. EH/LM Oxbow (2805 Clinton St.) parcel

LM reports on 9/28/14 West Seneca West Senior High School Key and Science Club brought out about ten student and three adults. The group wrapped trees and toured the property. On 10/04/14 Canisius High School Science Club brought 10 students and one adult out. The group finished wrapping trees, removal of invasive species and toured the property.

2. 2735 Clinton St.

EH after discussing the recent history of the property discusses a preliminary plan for the property which consists of making the area a public park. The park would include a boat launch, shelter, benches, over look decks, offices and more. RR, GR opinion that a canoe/kayak launch is not feasible at site because of downstream shallows, rocks at Harlem Rd.

2. West Seneca Developmental Center (1200 East & West Road) *Status Quo*

3. National Grid – Gardenville Station Upgrade Project *Status Quo*

4. Subcommittee reports:

· Tree Issues Subcommittee -

KS asks the group for any further suggestions for the revised ordinance. LM and WH suggest changing the language of point number 4 to when removal of a tree is needed for construction an arborist is needed. EH suggests the town have an arborist on retainer and also a more diverse list of tree species to plant be included. KS will take the groups suggestions and make changes to the current draft and release a new draft to members for review.

· Water Quality Issues Subcommittee:

o Meeting Minutes

Subcommittee approved their August MM on 10/16/2014. RR has distributed to WSEC for review.

o Rain Barrels

Current WSEC rain barrels will be drained and stored for the winter. M. Rossi has applied for a grant to partner with municipalities to conduct residential rain barrel workshops

o Illicit Discharges (Cazenovia Creek) – *Status Quo*

o Boat/canoe/kayak launch site –

WH reports he spoke with Mr. Fontana today regarding a launch at his site (address?) he would like to meet with EH to discuss details. WH and EH to set up meeting. GR has continued discussions with NYSDOT at 880 Harlem Rd site

5. 2015 Projects

RR suggests educational workshops for residents, downspout disconnection program, storm drain medallions, rain barrel giveaways and creation of a bike trail.

V. TOWN ISSUES

1. Shell Fab & Design (2855 Clinton St) expansion *Status Quo*

2. Buffalo Bioenergy – Moratorium –

After discussion, members agree that moratorium be allowed to expire. RR suggests that EH prepare a letter to the Town Board advising same. EH will send a draft to members for review. Wording will be along the lines of "We do not support expansion but current plan." All in favor, Motion carried.

VI. ISSUES OF THE PUBLIC

Ark Angels (newly formed church) are currently looking to obtain permits to own their own birds for use in their educational presentations and programs. They are also looking to obtain

30 acres for an active nature center for the community specifically the youth. They are interested in collaboration on the Oxbow property. EH questions why so many acres are needed the answer is given a visitor and nature center as well as a stage for shows and cage setups. Education would be given walking through the trails on the 30 acres. They do not currently own any property, looking where they can get it cheap or with funding they have not yet acquired. West Seneca is preferred because they are residents. The group currently has a 503c, the group is a not for profi organization, they have not initiated fundraising.or obtaining permits to collect the animals. In order to apply for permits they must still build the enclosures.JC advises them of “separation of church and state” issue

The next meeting will be held on 12/09/14 at 7:00pm. The schedule has been revised for the holiday season.

Motion to close at 9:21 by RR seconded by JO all in favor, Motion carried.